

That is why I was proud to cosponsor and help shepherd to passage H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act, that was signed into law in 2013 and which facilitates expedited passenger screening at airports for service members who are severely injured or disabled, along with their families.

It is why I also authored the "Helping to Encourage Real Opportunity for Veterans Transitioning from Battlespace to Workplace Act of 2015," or HEROS Act, legislation which provides strong incentives for employers to hire, retain, and employ veterans in positions that take maximum advantage of their skills and experience.

Madam Speaker, let us remember and keep in our hearts the brave men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan or some other foreign theater of conflict.

God bless them and all who served.

And may God bless the United States.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FOR MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE ACT OF 2021

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act of 2021." This bipartisan and bicameral legislation has broad support from a cross section of members on both sides of the aisle. The bill would authorize a grant program to law enforcement departments and corrections officers at the state, local territorial and tribal level to obtain vital behavioral health crisis response training to more safely and effectively resolve behavioral health crisis situations. Funding for this training would be authorized under the Byrne JAG program funding.

I would like to thank Congressman ANTHONY GONZALEZ for his partnership and collaboration on today's legislation. I would also like to thank both Senator SHERRON BROWN and Senator JAMES INHOFE who introduced this bill as companion legislation in the Senate earlier this week.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program, administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, supplies grants to local law enforcement entities for public safety initiatives. Grants authorized under this bill will be managed through Byrne JAG Prevention and Education programming.

Law enforcement officers are often the first responders to behavioral health crises. And correctional officers must deal with difficult and fast changing mental health situations, which if not handled appropriately, put the life and safety of inmates and officers at risk.

One in every 10 calls for police response involve a person suffering from a mental illness; 1 in every 4 people killed by police suffer from a mental health problem; 1 in 3 people transported to a hospital emergency room for psychiatric reasons are taken by the police. When responding to calls, law enforcement officers need to be prepared to respond to all possible scenarios and, with increasing frequency, we're seeing that involve behavioral health cri-

ses. By improving training for these types of responses, we can better keep our officers safe, ensure individuals in crisis are treated with dignity, and improve trust amongst affected communities.

Our nation owes a deep debt of gratitude to the men and women managing these situations, and this bill takes an important step to provide resources to help better manage mental health crisis situations involving police and corrections officers. Today's legislation is supported by both the Fraternal Order of Police and the National Tactical Officers Association.

GWEN EFRMEYER (INGLIS)

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gwen Efrmeier (Inglis) of Colorado who was tragically killed while riding her bike on May 16, 2021.

Gwen was born on October 12, 1974. In high school, she was very active in sports and went on to play basketball and was an All-American high jumper at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. There she also received her degree in accounting. Gwen worked as Manager of Government Account Compliance at Brown and Caldwell for 14 years.

In 2004, she discovered her love of cycling and began racing. This love of bikes led her to meet her husband, Mike. They were married in 2008. Gwen held numerous national and state champion titles.

Gwen was a devoted wife and loving aunt and sister. She will be remembered for her contribution and impact on the local cycling community and as a great Coloradan.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF LEIA MCINTOSH ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Leia McIntosh of Toledo, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Leia's offer of appointment permits her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming Class of 2025. Attending one of our nation's military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country, but also guarantees a world-class education while undertaking one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Leia brings a tremendous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2025. While attending Whitmer High School in Toledo, Ohio, Leia participated in Spanish Club, was an elementary school cheer coach, and a member of National Honor Society.

Throughout high school, Leia was involved with tennis, cheer, and track and field, achieving her varsity letter in tennis and cheer. I am confident that Leia will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Military Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Leia McIntosh on her offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Leia will excel during her career at the Military Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to our nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VISION ZERO ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Vision Zero Act of 2021. This legislation passed the House last session in Section 1601 of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2, 116th Cong.) and would make the development and implementation of Vision Zero plans eligible for federal funding through the Surface Transportation Block Grant program and the Highway Safety Improvement Program.

Traffic fatalities in the United States claimed more than 36,000 lives in 2019, equivalent to one death every 14 minutes. Traffic fatalities are especially common for the most vulnerable road users: pedestrians, cyclists, older Americans, and children. Pedestrian and cyclist deaths also make up a disproportionate and growing share of traffic fatalities. In the past decade, annual fatalities for motor vehicles have stayed largely stagnant while pedestrian and cyclist deaths have increased by 52 percent and 36 percent, respectively. We need a new approach. These are our friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues. The only acceptable number of traffic fatalities is zero.

The goal of Vision Zero is the elimination of all transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries. In more than 40 urban, rural, and suburban communities across the country, residents, activists, and elected officials have come together to adopt and implement Vision Zero plans. These plans improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and vehicle passengers. Vision Zero is an innovative, multifaceted approach to improve transportation safety by using data, new partnerships, safe planning, and community-focused solutions to achieve zero traffic fatalities.

While communities are integrating their Vision Zero plans into transportation policy, the federal government has not supported the design or implementation of Vision Zero plans. The Vision Zero Act of 2021 integrates Vision Zero into federal transportation policy to prioritize safety, equity, and proper planning.

Enacting the Vision Zero Act of 2021 will help communities of all sizes develop and implement innovative, effective methods to make our streets safer for everyone. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to enact this legislation into law as part of a surface transportation reauthorization bill.